

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, US, CE

SUBJ: PM' S MESSAGE FOR USIS PAMPHLET ON US- SRI LANKA RELATIONS

1. FOR JULY 4 CELEBRATIONS HERE USIS HAS PREPARED BOOKLET ON US- SRI LANKA RELATIONS OVER CENTURY AND A HALF, WITH EMPHASIS ON COMMEMORATION 25 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. IN RESPONSE OUR REQUEST FOR MESSAGE TO BE PUBLISHED AT FRONT BOOKLET, PM HAS SENT US FOLLOWING TEXT, WHICH INCIDENTALLY IS WARMER AND MORE FORTHCOMING THAN OUR SUGGESTED DRAFT:

2. " I AM PLEASED TO SEND A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS ON THE PUBLICATION OF THE BOOKLET COMMEMORATING A QUARTER CENTURY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN SRI LANKA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE MANY THINGS IN COMMON, INCLUDING A DEVOTION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND FREE ELECTIONS. WE FOR OUR PART HAVE BEEN PERHAPS UNIQUE, FOR, PRACTICALLY IN THE WHOLE ASIAN REGION WE HAVE BEEN THE ONE COUNTRY WHICH HAS CHANGED GOVERNMENTS SEVERAL TIMES BY PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES. WE HAVE VALUED GREATLY THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE OVER THE YEARS NOT ONLY

BY

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, BUT ALSO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES THROUGH VARIOUS AGENCIES, TOWARDS OUR GENERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE RAISING OF OUR STANDARDS OF LIVING. I AM VERY HAPPY TO STATE THAT WE STILL RECEIVE THIS GOODWILL AND UNDERSTANDING AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THIS WILL

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BE SO IN THE FUTURE TOO. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE CORDIAL AND
FRIENDLY RELATIONS THAT WE HAVE WITH THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA WILL BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED IN THE YEARS TO COME.
SIRIMAVO BANDARANAIKE, PRIME MINISTER OF SRI LANKA."

3. BOOKLET IS NOW AT RSC MANILA AND WILL BE READY FOR
DISTRIBUTION EARLY JULY.
VAN HOLLEN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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